establishment of 65 new polytechnics in the country and also by providing financial assistance for upgradation of infrastructural facilities in 177 existing polytechnics. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has permitted double shifts in those diploma level institutions where adequate infrastructure, faculty and other facilities are available. AICTE has also relaxed the norms for land requirement for establishment of diploma level institutes by fifty per cent. In order to meet the shortage of teachers in the polytechnics, the faculty student ratio has been reduced from 1: 15 to 1 :20.

Allocations for higher education

2792. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the department of higher education has put hold to the allocations amounting to Rs. 3,164 crore on account of the apex court's stay order on quota;

(b) whether the department of higher education was allocated Rs. 6,483 crore in the Budget 2007-08 of which Rs. 3,164 crore was to implement the recommendations of the Veerappa Moily Committee;

(c) whether the Ministry has to decide the financial issues and also the Ministry of Finance is reconsidering levying the 1 per cent additional cess for secondary and higher education; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 6483 crores has been allocated for Higher Education, out of which Rs. 3275.00 crores has been earmarked for implementation of the Oversight Committee recommendations for infrastructure development in Central Educational Institutions. However, the reservation in admission for the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) has been stayed by the Apex Court.

(c) The Government has already decided to levy 1% additional cess for secondary and higher education during 2007-08.

(d) It is not possible to give any specific timeframe in which the Apex court may decide the matter.

Sexual harassment at Delhi University

2793. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken cognizance of the delay being caused by the Vice-Chancellor, University of Delhi, in taking action on the recommendations of Sexual Harassment Committee, which submitted its report to VC in June last;

(b) whether it is a fact that the victims and a witness of the sexual harassment case are being harassed in many ways; and